

Dry Prairie Rural Water is committed to delivering clean, affordable and dependable drinking water that will improve the quality of life and create economic opportunities throughout northeast Montana.

Issue 15 - Spring 2006

Project Representatives Meet with Montana Congressmen

Fort Peck/Dry Prairie Project Sponsors were in Washington, D.C. the week of March 13th to present the next funding request for the regional water system. The project is requesting over \$29 million for FY 2007. Project Sponsors expressed their gratitude to Senators Baucus and Burns and also Congressman Rehberg for their persistent efforts that have resulted in significant progress of the regional system. The Sponsors also met with Senator Harry Reid of Nevada and Congressman John Doolittle of California, who are both members of the Energy and Water Appropriations Committee. Additional meetings were held with Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Keys and House and Senate appropriation committee staff.



Pictured above left to right are:

Mike Watson - Watson Engineering, **Rae Jean Belgarde** - Watson Engineering, **Darryl Red Eagle** - Tribal Council, **Clint Jacobs** - Dry Prairie Manager, **Senator Conrad Burns**, **Tom Escarcega** - Tribal Water Project Director, **Jon Bolstad** - Dry Prairie Board, **Wagner Harmon** - Dry Prairie Board.

Thank You

ThanksToTheTown of Culbertson

A huge THANK YOU goes out from Dry Prairie and its customers to the Town of Culbertson for supplying high quality drinking water. Culbertson's generosity has allowed Dry Prairie to meet the critical water needs of rural and community residents of the area. "We are pleased to be able to supply water to Dry Prairie on a temporary basis until the time when delivery of water from the regional water system plant near Wolf Point is possible", stated Culbertson Mayor Gordon Oelkers. The Town of Culbertson has utilized the Missouri River as a source of drinking water since the early 1900's.



Pictured above standing inside the Culbertson Water Treatment Plant left to right are: **Gordon Oelkers**- Mayor of Culbertson, **Bob Jasper**, Public Works Director and **Steve Moore**, Water Treatment Plant Operator

Dry Prairie Sign Up Fees & Water Rates

If you live within the Dry Prairie Rural Water service area, the cost to connect to the system is \$500.00 per water connection. The cost includes a Good Intent Fee and a Hook Up Fee. The \$100.00 Good Intent Fee expresses the landowners intent to participate in the project and should be paid by all future customers that intend to be served by the Dry Prairie System. When the time comes for planning and design of a particular area to be constructed, all landowners in that area will be notified that in order to be included in the project they will need to sign a Water Users Agreement and pay the \$400.00 Hook-up Fee. By signing the Water Users Agreement the landowner agrees to pay the base rate for a minimum of ten years.

The base rate for water at this time is \$32.20/month per rural service connection. The charge for rural water consumption is 90 cents per thousand gallons of water. For example a customer that has one rural service connection and uses 6,000 gallons/month will be charged a total of \$37.60/month (\$32.20 base + \$5.40 usage).

If you have not yet provided your \$100.00 Good Intent Fee, but are interested in signing up to be included in the project, please call the office at 406-787-5382 and request that a Good Intent form be mailed to you.

Construction Begins on Phase Two - "A" Branch Pipeline Project

It was a cold windy morning on March 9th, when the first construction activities began on Dry Prairie's second phase of construction - the "A" Branch Pipeline Project. A boring crew from Agri-Industries began the work of boring under the County Line Road north of Froid. Agri-Industries of Williston, ND was awarded the \$5.5 million construction contract on March 2nd, 2006. The contract includes 190 miles of pipeline ranging in size from 1.5" to 8" in diameter. When this phase is complete the new lines will supply the Town of Bainville and 188 rural households in Sheridan and Roosevelt Counties with treated drinking water.

Agri-Industries will utilize two or three boring crews. Boring is a method of construction that allows roadways and streams to be undisturbed by construction activities. The process involves drilling horizontally under roads and pulling the pipe through the hole. Boring crews will be working ahead of the pipeline crews and will bore 113 county road crossings, 22 state highway crossings, 14 railroad crossings and 29 stream crossings.

Three or four pipeline crews will begin installing lines as soon as the frost is out of the ground. All pipe is jointed PVC in lengths of 20ft or 40ft and will be laid to a minimum depth of 7ft.

Next, two service line crews will install the lines and meter pits into the yards of rural residences. It is the user's responsibility to install the last 50 to 100 feet of line that connects the system to a residence or other point of use.

In 2004 the 14" Mainline between Culbertson and Medicine Lake was constructed and now serves the Towns of Froid, Medicine Lake and thirty-five rural users. By combining the Mainline with the "A" Branches, Dry Prairie will be delivering treated drinking water to over 650 services by the contract completion date of November 30, 2006. This represents about 10% of Dry Prairie's potential services of the entire project area.



Agri-Industries boring under the County Road North of Froid

